



SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER

April-June, 2015

Introduction

This newsletter brings the new name –Hope College of Business, Science and Technology (HCBST) replacing the former HUC. The change was necessitated by the strict decision of the Ministry of Education in its letter dated 22/12/06 EC with Ref. No 7/1-15288/1704/35. There were rather lengthy communications between the parties before such decision was received. HCBST as a new name was coined and approved by the Senate of the College and subsequently, by the Board of the Hope Enterprises. This was further communicated to the pertinent authorities.

Academic activities

The mid-semester assessment was carried in all departments for all courses. Students were making good progress in all courses. Monitoring of assessments was carried in all departments to verify that assessments are linked with learning objectives of all courses. Relevance and weight of tests and quizzes were also made making the necessary corrections as needed. Supervision on classes was made and instructors gave make up classes for lost ones. Courses that were not covered due to overloads were taken by own staff and part-time instructors from other institutions. Class attendance was monitored and courses were finished in time on June 19 for graduating classes and for those that go out for internships. 137 students go out for internships in July and August and all the necessary preparations were made to place them for the work. The link of the college with the outside community is growing from time to time. Eight guest lecturers came and gave a talk to students in different departments in the semester. Many student groups were given practical assignment to collect data and write their reports from the department of architecture, food science, environmental science and business fields.

In order to strengthen the English language proficiency of the incoming students to our college, EthiopiAid/UK was approached to support in the ways of language course delivery improvement. EthiopiAid accepted our request and seconded the British Council Office in Addis Ababa to conduct an assessment review of the College's teaching environment in connection to the language delivery system. The assessment was carried through surveys, focus group discussions with students and teachers, classroom and language lab observations, and APTIS test for 100 students and 20 staff members. The consultative report was published with concrete recommendations in the area of curriculum revisions', learning resources and recruiting qualified English teachers. Discussions have been started with EthiopiAid to get the follow up support in implementing the recommendations that were outlined in the report. The management of the college was grateful for EthiopiAid's support in funding the consultation and developed an action plan to improve the English language program in the college.

Competency based education

It is to be noted that CBE was launched on a pilot base earlier in the business faculty. The program has core elements such as coherence of the curriculum in competency framework, active learning, link with work profession, professional task, coaching and creating stimulating learning environment. This pilot program was evaluated in April by interviewing both staff and students, and by observing classroom activities. This evaluation by an expert mission from the Netherlands was positive and thus, concluded that the program will be expanded to the rest of the faculties and becomes part of the college curriculum for the following reasons. First, students liked the approach as it stimulates active learning. Second, staff members are convinced that CBE can be a model of good practice in the college's teaching program. Third, the management of the college is committed to provide the necessary support for the program to make it a successful undertaking. At the moment, the implementation is going on smoothly. Coaching is given three days a week in groups of five and students are working on their professional tasks. In addition, instructors are endorsing active learning method in their classes, giving many activities for students.

Therefore, preparation is underway to expand CBE to other faculties. To this effect, training was given by Dr. Peter and Lieske on June 5 and 6, 2015 for the staff members of Faculty of Science and Technology and Information Science to prepare them to start CBE in their programs for the coming academic year. The training further focused on bridging the gap between higher education and work profession, sharing the experiences from the business faculty and practicing the preparation of competency framework and semester books. Two guests were invited to share their perspectives on the gap between higher education and work profession. Ato Tihitinaw Amare, representing the Ministry of Education (MoE), spoke about the part played by the Ministry in bridging the gap between higher education and the industry. He reported that the Ministry formed a university-industry linkage (UIL) office in the Ministry of Education to facilitate a better link between the two. Ato Girum, from dVentis Plc. Ltd, spoke about the importance of attitude to work, in addition to having the right skill from the employees. Both speakers expressed the importance of strengthening the link between the industry and higher education. Our academic staff who participated in the training benefited from the discussions and is motivated to implement the CBE as a result come next academic year.

Research activities

The research and publication committee is spearheading the organization of seminars as regular campus activities. Thus far, four seminars were held during the quarter. While the three seminar sessions were presented by our academic staff, the fourth was made by Dr. Yekunoamlak Alemu, member of the Board of Hope Enterprises. The seminar presentations, we find them a very useful platform for academic exercise as well as exchange of ideas within the campus community and as such are becoming part of the academic activities. The RPC is compiling papers presented in the seminars to publish them in the up-coming College bulletin.

With the participation of all departments, the research thematic areas of the College were developed and subsequently approved by the Senate. This will open the door for the start of research activities in areas designated in the document. The RPC announced “call for proposals and papers”. Some staff members are responding for the call. After the approval of proposal by the RPC and the Senate, staff so involved will start their research work soon, it is expected.

Student activities

Students participated in various activities in the College. Earth and Environmental days were celebrated on campus with colorful art displays on April 22 and June 12, respectively. On the Earth day, presentations by ESSD students and professionals took place including sustainable art show. Students from environmental science presented on the issues of endemic animals in Ethiopia. They also discussed the need to address ecological balance that accommodates the natural environment. In the afternoon, a discussion was held with board members of Hope and the management of the college in how to improve the upkeep on the campus with environmentally friendly approach. Students participated actively in the discussions, renewing their commitment to change the way we care for the campus and then influence the neighborhoods as well. The board members also promised to work cooperatively with the College community.



Awareness on an environmental issues



Art display on Earth Day

The discussion was followed with out door activities where tree planting was carried out in the campus while students presented their work in preparing compost and developing a park by IT students. Visiting was made to a plot designated to plant vegetables. Similar activities were carried out on the world environment day where presentations by professionals on the topic “the youth and the environment” took place. Students again presented their work on waste management. In addition to this, students had many out of campus activities like attending conferences, visiting the herbarium, densely populated quarters of Addis, the botanical garden, soil laboratory and others.



Presentation on compost making by ESSD student

Alumni Association formation starts



Discussion about Alumni Association Formation

Formation of Hope Alumni Association was in the planning since the day of graduation last July, 2014. Since now all our first batch has joined the work force, the members have started the long process of association formation. Through the follow-up support of the Dean of student affairs office, the members have made series of meeting and formed association organizing committee. This committee is working on the modus-operandi of the association. The Hope Enterprises legal department is assisting in the legal frame work of the association formation.

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Administrative wing:

Existing chart of account has been revised in order to enable us to encode detailed budget line item transactions and distinguish various sources of income, based on type and source of fund. Two staff members participated in the Education Management Information Systems organized by the Ministry of Education. The training will help us in organizing educational information in a systematic way so that data can be recorded and retrieved easily for different purposes. In addition, 400 GB of electronic resources were collected from MOE and will be uploaded to our server to enrich the electronic library of the college.

Our ICT unit service has major service breakdown because part from Oracle Server was blown out. Technicians identified the part and a process now has started to import the part from out side. In the meantime, the server was reconfigured to resume the interrupted internet service, on limited scale though.



Library roof repair underway

Works on the repair of the leaking library roof is underway as this newsletter is being prepared. Funds for this

work and for the



Library roof repair progresses further

supervision personnel back-up have been made available through the good and faithful works of the Regional Coordinator of W&D to Ethiopia, Miss Ellen van den Hil. The College is very grateful both to her and the donors whose generosity is the source of our success at this end.



Preparing for waterproofing



Library roof waterproofing advances

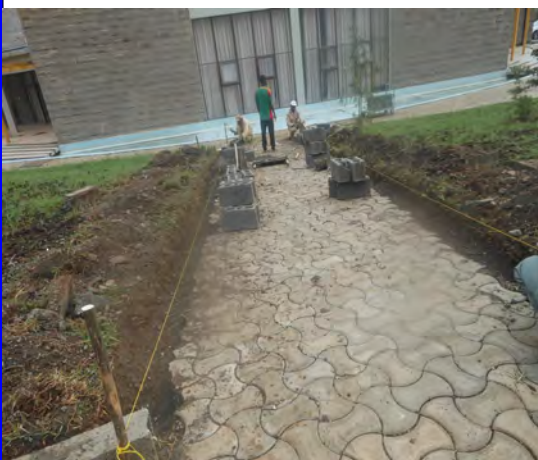


Dead water pump replacement

A long served water pump went dead and the campus was absolutely without water for over a week. The good technicians worked day and night and replaced the dead pump with a new one to our delights. In order to insure the sustainability of water supply to the College, direct water supply line from the city water system with a two inch water pipe is now ready for use. As a matter of coincidence, the power line connection to our transformer is now also connected and as a result, the campus power interruption has eased. It is to note that the power connection process took rather long follow-up.



The new water supply being tested



Pedestrian Walkway repair

Much of the poorly finished pedestrian walkways and pavements were removed and replaced with a new setting.

To enhance better working conditions and allow automated administrative and academic processes, an in-house automation project is underway in collaboration with all the staff members of the College, and as a result the registrar, administration staff and student evaluation systems are being customized and hopefully, will be completed before the next academic year starts.

The College is preparing itself for the second graduation which will take place on the 25th of July, 2015.

Challenges

Failure in ICT server parts caused a lot of connection difficulties during the quarter. An unfortunate name change by the decision of the Ministry of Education also caused anxiety among our students and at times it was even quarrelsome issue, though it was not the fault of the College administration at all. Some laboratory equipment have not erected due to non-availability, and causing inconvenience in the teaching-learning processes. Our computers have started frequent trouble-shooting requiring constant repairs. Our computers are of low capacity to allow increased working loads the departments of Architecture and the Information Technology are asking increasingly.

Support for the coming academic year solicited

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As our donor pool is getting thinner and thinner, the need for more assistance is increasingly convincing to us. In September, we expect some 400 (from our last year experience) needy applicants will appear on our campus seeking assistance to attend our College. Unless we get some confirmed sources of support to these young applicants, their hopes to overcome poverty through education and thereby become useful citizens remain bleak, indeed. This is therefore, to solicit assistance from all those who come across this newsletter to extend their generous hands to our needy students.

Some thirty six graduates who have become productive workers at this time and still those just about to graduate in two weeks' time, are the fruits of the good and generous donors who shared their living means to enable the needy. We are often grateful for such generosities.

For more information or to make a donation, please visit our website or contact us in our LEBU Office in Addis Ababa.

Thank you for being with us !